



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 2, 2016

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill #296 - An Act Concerning the Provision of Healthy Food in Vending Machines
Operated on State Property and Recommendations of the Child Obesity Task Force**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is not supportive of Senate Bill #296 as written.

This bill mandates the Department of Public Health to collaborate with the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) to study food dispensed in vending machines by type, placement in the machine, nutritional content and whether a vending machine displays information regarding caloric content of the types of food for sale.

The Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind has jurisdiction over the vending machines located at most of the state agencies in Connecticut. Some of the information required by this bill is housed at and accessible by BESB and DORS, but other required data either does not exist or would be extremely challenging to procure. However, as DORS is currently implementing efforts to promote healthier food choices in their vending machines and in the businesses run by operators with blindness, this data collection and study is unnecessary at this time. While DPH will continue to work with these agencies to support their efforts to increase healthy options available in vending machines on state properties, the Department cannot accomplish the mandates in this bill within available resources.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department of Public Health's view of this proposal.